

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

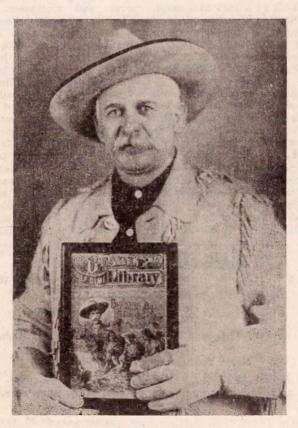
Vol. 23 No. 3

March 15, 1955

Whole No. 270

The Buckskin Bill Story

By J. Edward Leithead



Buckskin Bill Randolph

The Buckskin Bill Story

By J. Edward Leithead

Charles Daniel Randolph ("Buckskin Bill"), of Davenport, Iowa, is no stranger to members of the Happy Hours Brotherhood, Several of his Western poems have appeared in Dime Novel Roundup. I have before me, "Buffalo Bill's Birthday", in the February 1951 issue, and "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show", in the April 1953 issue. These, and other poems by Buckskin Bill-he has written enough for a couple of books-are in somewhat similar vein to those by Captain John W. Crawford, one-time pard of Col. W. F. Cody. Captain Jack was called "The Poet Scout of the Black Hills", his book of verses and songs, "The Poet Scout", is a fine piece of Western Americana, Buckskin Bill is called "The Poet of the Plains." In the fine biography of J. B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, BUCKSKIN AND SATIN, by Herschel C. Logan, recently published by the Stackpole Company, you will find, on page 204, Col. Randolph's poem, "Texas Jack."

I have corresponded with Col. C. D. Randolph for many years, and in 1938 made him a principal character in a Ranch Romances novel of mine, "Shining Spurs". He is one of the few now living who saw the last of the vanishing frontier.

I once asked him how he got the name "Buckskin Bill". In his Western wanderings as a young man he was stopping one night at a lodging-house in Deadwood. About midnight he was roused by the landlord bringing another lodger to his room, who proved to be an old-timer, following the pursuits of prospector in summer and trapper in winter. He identified himself only as "Panther Pete".

Taking instant liking to each other, the two men planned a trapping expedition, outfitted themselves with necessary supplies and pack mules in Deadwood. Randolph at that time bought a yellow-tanned, fringed buckskin hunting coat, fringed buckskin pants and moccasins. His horse, "Ned", was a buckskin—he favored horses of that color. His trapping companion didn't like the name "Charlie" and one day he said:

"You are dressed in buckskin from head to foot, you ride a buckskin horse, your bridle and saddle are made of buckskin, and look at the bunch of buck deer you have killed this here winter. I'm calling you 'Buckskin Bill', pard, from now on."

While running his trap-lines one day, the newly christened Buckskin Bill encountered a panther, which leaped on him from a yellow pine as he was rounding a boulder in a canyon. The attack was so sudden and unexpected that Buckskin Bill was

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

Vol. 23 No. 3

March 15, 1955

Whole No. 270

Pullished Monthly at 821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Assistant Editor
Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Assistant Editor for Photography—Charles Duprez, Bellerose, L. I., N. Y. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Lawrence, Kansas

Price \$2.00 per year

Ad Rates — 6c per word. \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00 and Full Page \$5.00 — 4 times for the price of three.

Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

knocked down, with no time to draw his six-shooter. He was a husky young man in those days, managed to turn over, as the panther hadn't hit him squarely, and reached for his bowie-knife. He drove it to the hilt in his tawny attacker with sidewise thrusts, finally making a stab to the heart. There was no life in the panther after that. And not too much left in Buckskin Bill, either.

The only doctor available was his trapping partner, but old-time frontiersmen were familiar with wounds from fang and claw, as well as bullet wounds, and between them they managed to patch up Buckskin Bill. One time (long years afterward, when he was living in Davenport), Buckskin Bill sent me the skin of a rattlesnake he had killed in the Black Hills.

Buckskin Bill says he has been at various times a member of the Montana Rangers, a cowboy, a stage driver, a miner and a lumberjack. He was a soldier in World War I, and for eighteen years has been a Government Guard at the Rock Island Arsenal.

"In the old days, his grandfather worked for Buffalo Bill's father, Isaac Cody, on the "Big Farm" in Scott County, Iowa (this was before the Codys moved to Kansas). Bill Cody as a boy rode with Randolph's grandfather on the water wagon in the harvest field. Much later, of course, Buckskin Bill met Cody's son, grown world-famous as Buffalo Bill. He also knew Cody's sister, Julia. He had a long list of good friends among other famous frontiersmen-Major Gordon W. Lillie ("Pawnee Bill"), John Thomas Spaulding ("Buckskin Johnnie"), Dr. Richard J. Tanner ("Diamond Dick"), Richard Clarke ("Deadwood Dick") and Col. B. R. Pearson ("Idaho Bill"). Idaho Bill, well-known frontiersman, wore his hair long to the last, did some scouting with Cody in Indianfighting times. And when Cody became a showman, Idaho Bill at one time supplied him with horses for his Wild West arena.

Buckskin Bill and Idaho Bill were great friends, and shortly before the latter's death, they held a reunion in Davenport which was written up by a local newspaper, with a full-length picture of the two old-timers together. I have a copy of the photo from which the picture was taken, and the two Bills are attired in the full buckskin garb and wide-brimmed hats that the well-dressed plainsman of early days wore, a truly picturesque style. I have also a copy of that newspaper clipping, quite lengthy, about these two men who saw the closing days of the old Wild West.

Idaho Bill still limped a bit from an auto accident near Pueblo, Colorado (he drove a car sometimes, though I don't doubt an old-time plainsman like him preferred horseback travel), and on this occasion he had a cinnamon bear chained in the back seat. It was on a steep-pitched, winding road, and, to escape collision with another car, driven by a woman, Col. Pearson went over the embankment. To complicate matters, the bear had pulled to the end of his chain and knocked Idaho Bill's hat forward so he couldn't see where he was going. The car did cartwheels down the slope, coming to rest finally on top of Pearson and the bear. The frontiersman was trapped beneath it with a broken leg, and the cinnamon, uninjured but crazy with fright, probably would have ripped up Pearson as well as the upset car if passing drivers hadn't gone to his aid. It wasn't his last tour with a bear, but he kept them caged after that.

The photo of Col. Randolph in this issue of the DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP shows him holding a copy of Beadle's Half Dime Library No. 520, Buckskin Bill, the Comanche Shadow. by Col. Prentiss Ingraham. It might well have been written about the Buckskin Bill who is the subject of this article. I have seen a photo of C. D. Randolph in his younger days and there is a remarkable resemblance to the artist's conception of the hero of the novel in the inset on the cover-the same lean features and sweeping mustache and high-crowned sombrero. I also have a photo of Randolph on Ned, the buckskin horse.

now long dead. He looked the part of the real plainsman. He has, as mementoes of those past exciting times, a collection of guns, a yellow-tanned, fringed buckskin hunting coat (he is wearing it in the photo here reproduced) and fringed buckskin pants to match. He owns, also, a pair of longlegged riding-boots such as you see in pictures of old-time scouts when they weren't wearing moccasins.

"Randolph's Rest" is the name of Buckskin Bill's home in Davenport. It is reminiscent of "Scout's Rest", the old Buffalo Bill ranch outside of North Platte, Nebraska, and I think Randolph had it in mind when he named his place, for he has ever been a great admirer of Col. W. F. Cody.

"Randolph's Rest" houses a good collection of Western Americana. dime and nickel novels about Buffalo Bill and other plainsmen of his day, clothbound books on the same subject, and a rare collection of framed photos of famous buckskin men. One of Buckskin Bill's treasures of the old Wild West is a complete set of Street & Smith's Far West Library. Not long ago, a couple of these paperback volumes were spoiled by water, and it seems that here and now it would be appropriate to mention that Col. Randolph would be glad to hear from anyone having for sale good copies of Far West Library No. 192, Buffalo Bill's Sad Tidings and No. 194, Buffalo Bill's Stern Justice. Or he will be glad to buy these titles as reprinted in the Buffalo Bill Border Stories, No. 107, Buffalo Bill's Stern Justice and No. 174, Buffalo Bill's Sad Tidings. In Great Western Library, No. 120 was Buffalo Bill's Stern Justice; Buffalo Bill's Sad Tidings was not reprinted in this library. Just address Col. C. D. Randolph, "Buckskin Bill", at 2316 Jefferson Avenue, Davenport, Iowa.

NUTHER BIOGRAPHY—BY CRACKY

and by Nameless Joe.

All you real dyed-in-the-wool dime novel Buckaroos have a lot to be thankful for when I tell you about my choice this month, who rates high standing, and one whom you all know of, or have met personally. None other than good old Reckless Ralph himself, our President and I ask all members to please remove their hats when reading this.

I was always under the impression that Ralph was born with a novel in his right hand and a bottle of milk in t'other. But no, he actually did not know a durn thing about novels until

he was 15 years old.

He was born in Uxbridge, Mass., Jan. 4, 1898. When old enough to toddle his Poppa started him off in the milk business. At six years of age he could milk two cows at the same time, one with each hand and was practicing taking on two more by using his feet, in this his father objected for sanitary reasons.

There is no need going into all the phases of his milk activities which would take volumes, his hectic days in all sorts of weather, getting up at the bust of dawn, chasing the cows into the pasture to manufacture the day's supply. Ralph was finally so fed up with cows and milk he wouldn't even have a drop in his coffee.

All this has no bearing on our favorite topic, Dime Novels. Fifteen full drab years rolled by since his birth when by chance our hero met a feller by the name of Clarence De Rossier who sat on a stoop awaiting Ralph with his bottles of snowy white liquid. Clarence up to his ears in a dime novel about Young Wild West, and at his side more copies of other weeklies. Ralph gave one glance and the bright cover immediately took hold, Ralph was hooked from there on in to the present day. It became his life's hobby and finally turned it into a paying proposition.

I may be going over some of the cld ground mentioned in the Roundup some years ago, however it bears repeating for the benefit of those who muffed. Ralph has right now one of the biggest collections of novels in the country. Possibly not the biggest, but what he lacks in novels he makes up for it with other collectors

items. Such as rare bustles, pen wipers, bicycle bells, snuff boxes, empty treasure chests and thousands of other articles.

Then the big moment of his life, he meets up with Ralph P. Smith of Lawrence, Mass., who was publishing the Happy Hours Magazine. Ralph took it over in 1931 and the Committee changed it to the Happy Hours Brotherhood which was the year Novel Reckless started his Dime Roundup, taking up where Ralph Smith left off. Bob Smeltzer coined the name, Dime Novel Roundup for cur paper. You all know the many years Ralph kept it going, and very successful too. Pertater diggin and other farm chores however took so much of his time our new Editor and Publisher Eddie Le Blanc has it in tow, with Reckless still perculatin with his Newsy News.

Nothing however stops old Reckless, his name should go from Reckless to Dauntless Ralph. Now as you all well know he has launched a new brain child, his Old Timers Mart. Therein he not only places before you a vast amount of unbelievable items, so what I said about old bicycle bells and the like is no stretch of my imagination. Not only does he sell this stuff, but he now has oodles of ads from members and non members of our Brotherhood. If you haven't plowed through one of his Old Timers Mart you have sure missed something. And if what you want is not in the Mart, Reckless claims he can dig it up for you, anything from worn out shoe laces to elephant tusks.

All right you fellers who have removed your hats, you can put em back on again. Long may our hero be the enterprizing fellow he always was.

CORRECTION

Last month's issue contained a number of errors as follows:

Page 16, half way down the ad, the Jules Verne Collection of 100 titles should show \$100.00 instead of \$1.00. Page 14, in ad of Valley Novel Exchange, the first group of Pluck and Lucks #7 to 91 should read \$3.00 ea.

instead of \$2.00 ea.

Caption under picture on cover should read Jesse James Stories instead of James Boys Weekly.

It is hoped that they caused embarrassment to no one but the editor and the Printer. Our apologies are extended to all concerned.

Next month's issue will contain an article by Mr. J. P. Guinon entitled "Reprints of the Merriwell Stories,"

NEWSY NEWS by Ralph F. Cummings

Benny Tighe and his new wife are down in Florida for 3 weeks.

Buffalo Bill, King of the Wild West the Biography of William F. Cody, Master Showman. By Elizabeth Jane Learnard and Julia Cody Goodman. 320 Pages, just out. Price \$4.95. Rare illustrations, for sale by the publishers: Library Publishers, 8 W. 40th St., New York 18, N. Y.

Walter A. Coslet is strong after Bible Versions for his collection.

Bill Burns went up and spent the night with Kenneth Daggett the middle of December. Bill saw stuff he's never seen before. They had a swell time, talking over the old timers.

Wm. M. Claggett sure has been around, I'll say. He started out as a program boy on No. 2 Car of "Young Buffalo's Wild West and Col. Cummins Far East", season of 1912-13. In 1914 Bill joined the army, and furloughed from the regular army Reserve in 1920. Then back to the good old Circus again, for it was still in his blood, as a fellow says. 1920 and the following seasons up to 1931 inclusive, was with various shows and served with them in different capacities, lithographer, billposter, bannerman, opposition brigade agent, parade layout route man, also reserve seat ticket seller for part of one season-Bill did a little bit of everything on the advance.

Bad news. Heard from Bill Burns that he has lost his dear wife on Friday night, Feb. 4th, 1955. Bill is very grief stricken, and on top of everything, he lost his only son last June.

We all think we have troubles, but none comes up to poor Bill's. A card or letter to Bill of condolence will help him a lot, fellers, so be sure to write to him, his address is 15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine. We all send our sincerest sympathy to you Bill in your great loss. God bless her, where ever she may be.

Should anyone have anything on John Wallace Crawford, the Poet Scout, and known also as Capt. Jack, such as pictures, articles, etc., write to Mr. Herschel C. Logan, 400 So. 9th St., Salina, Kansas, as he may write

a book on the above.

A clipping was sent in to me from Wm. M. Burns, on Charles B. "Dime" Hamilton, a collector of the old nickel novels, such as Top Tops, etc., also a large collection of butterflies and insects. Says his father's name was Diamond Hamilton, so the nick name was given to him as "Dime" Hamilton. He is 77 years old now, and still is an avid member of the Happy Hours Brotherhood—has been almost from the day it started.

He has a collection of over 1000 choice novels, but lacks the first 40 numbers of Tip Top Library. He loves to read the old timers, and to collect moths from all over the world. Long live Charles B. "Dime" Hamilton, in his greatest of collections.

Harry B. McConnell, Cadiz, Ohio, wants anything printed in colors in the 1830's around Cadiz, Ohio. He is also looking for books and pamphlets by Anderson, the Publisher.

T. Kenneth Meadway says he was a movie operator from 1916 to 1920.

I see where they burned 8000 comic books Dec. 13th, such as Horror and Crime Comics, up in Vancouver, B. C. These kind of comics sure get in some peoples hair, don't they. I can't say as I care for them, but lots of folks do. Be funny if we all liked the same thing.

Eli Messier was sick along the last of November, but is all O.K. now.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE, PENDEXTER FANS

One of the late Hugh Pendexter's best frontier yarns, serialized years

ago in Adventure Magazine under the title, "Tameless Days," has just been published as a hard-cover book, retitled, "Vigilante of Alder Gulch," by Arcadia House. An exciting and historically accurate novel of the Montana diggings in 1864, the famous John X. Beidler and his vigilantes pitted against the notorious Plummer Gang. "Old Misery." the memorable old Indian-fighter created by Pendexter, and who was the hero of another tale bearing his name, reappears in this story. We hope Arcadia House will publish more of Hugh Pendexter's fine historical Western tales. Price of the book is \$2.50. and if you obtain it from the publishers, add 12¢ for postage. Their address is: Arcadia House, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

-J. Edward Leithead

(Advertisments)

EXCHANGE COLUMN

Wanted. Harper's Weekly for 5-21-13; 6-7-13 and 5-13-16. Samuel Olnhausen, 824 Chester Ave., East Liverpool. Ohio.

For Sale. 1 Amateur Mart, 1 Vanity Fair, 10 Collectors' Miscellany, all from England some years back. Robert H. Smeltzer, 3432 North Bodine St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Have two rare Henty titles and one rather rare first edition. Want several Henty first editions and a few Ellis books, W. B. Poage, 505 S. Newport Ave., Tampa 6, Fla.

Wanted. Secret Service #525, Ray Mengar, 742 First Ave., San Diego 1,

Calif.

FOR SALE

I am thinning out my collection of nearly all kinds—Novels, story papers and books. Many rare, many at bargain prices. What do you want?

GEORGE FRENCH

7 Leo Terrace Bloomfield, N. J.

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Cloth bound books.

Alger, Converse, Graydon, Mane Reid, Otis, Trowbridge and others.

G. D. NICHOLS

376 Curtis St. Nogales, Ariz.

New Nick Carter Weekly #335 337* 340* 343* 353* 354* 430 450 464* 503* 518* 519 522 532 533 564* 567 568 569 572 575 578 579 581 582 583 584 591 592 597 598 608* 637* 638 641 642 643 645 648 649 650 654 655 656 657 658 660 661 663 667 668* 669 671 674 677 682 685 687 688 689 690 692 693 695 697 698 701 702 703 704 715 716 727* 728* 734* 735* 737 743 745* 747 776 777 786* 788* 789*807* 808 809 814* 818.

Nick Carter Stories #30 33 34 49 79* 87 88 92* 93 96 108 120 137 140 145 146 148 151 153 154 157 158 160 also 3 11 13 14 15 19 21 22*.

Tip Top Weekly #184 187 189 90* 191 192* 194* 197 205* 206* 506* 561* 576 579 589* 593 594 595 603 610 615 623 642 661 684 689* 689 706* 714* 820 824. New Tip Top Weekly #13 14 17 22 23* 23 24 26 28 29 30 31* 36 38 42 43 44* 45* 46 47* 47 49* 50 45 48* 50* 54* 54 58 61* 62* 62 63* 65 67* 67 68 70 71* 72 78* 79* 86 88 89 91 93 95 96* 98 99 108 109 113 115 116 117 118* 119 120 121 122 123 125 126 127 134.

Work and Win #8* 205 249 251 257 264 265 267 298 299 300 307 319 322 324 335 366 387 390 394 411 425 433. Western Weekly #74. Boys Best Weekly #38 48. Comic Library #160 Part 2, 142 Part 2. All Sports Library #8. New Buffalo Bill Weekly #184. Old Sleuth Weekly #9 95* 95. Nugget Library #74*. Secret Service 919 945*. Wide A Wake Library #1233 1235 1247* 1252* 1253* 1256 1257 1258 1269 1285 1326* 1330. Dick Dobbs Detective Weekly #7* 7. Pluck and Luck #155* 808 1086. Beadles Waverly Library #4 71 78 103 142 147 157 159 192 198. Beadles Fireside Library #38 47. Beadles Half Dime Lby. #770. Beadles Dime Library 828. Buffalo Bill Stories 372* 429 430 432 439 451. Old Sleuth Library #7 25* 26 38 55 65 90* 101*. The Dime Library (Beadles Dime Library) #1100.

All above that have no stars are in good condition, maybe a few have stamps, lightly, at \$1.00 each, 12 for \$10.00. Those with stars * means they run as stamped, taped, not too good, etc., at 75ϕ each, 12 for \$7.50.

PAPER BOOKS as follows:

Laird & Lee paper books-Running the Blockade, The Jucklins, The Sealed Verdict, Shadowed By Three, By the Eternal, The Diamond Coterie, Len Gansett, A Slender Clue. The Merriwell Series #141 Dick Merriwell's Influence, 165 Frank M.'s Steadying Hand, 177 F. M. at Phantom Lake, 188 D. M.'s Tussle, 190 D. M.'s Intuition, 192 D. M.'s Fighting Chance, 197 F. M.'s Tenacity. 209 D. M. Universal Coach, 211 D. M.'s Heroic Players. Sport Stories #3 Jack Lightfoot Trapped, 12 J. L.'s Capture. Lustful Love, The Adventuress. The Boomerang, Monte Cristo's Daughter, The Son of Monte Cristo, The Wife of Monte Cristo, all 3 pub. by Peterson Bros. 1870. Confessions of a Dancer, Common Complaints and How to Cure Them, no back cover, 1877. Sunset Series, A Study in Scarlet, Lady Valworth's Diamonds, 178 A Mental Struggle, 279 Sherlock Holmes, 349 A Romance of Two Worlds. The Mystery of the Hansom Cab. The Vicomte De Bragelonne, The Henty Series #48 Out on the Pampas. Damaged Goods. On An Army Mule Through Virginia, Early Western Life Series #14 The Ghost of Death Canyon, The Western Story Library #12 Ted Strong Challenged, 24 T. S.'s Treasure, 26 T. S.'s Diamond Mine, 28 T. S., Manager, 37 T. S.'s Mettle, 46 T. S. and the Sioux Players. The Adven ture Library, The Spur of Necessity, 29 The Testing of Noyes, 34 Wanted, A Highwayman, 69 The Presidential Snapshot, 86 Bob Steele's Reverse, 98 A Case of Identity, 130 The Paymasters Special. Bertha Clays An Alluring Young Woman, A Broken Reed, At Any Cost, On Her Wedding Morn, The Fatal Lillies, Her Only Sin, Between Two Sins, Lady Ethel's Whim, Fair But False, Carmen the Power of Love. Cowboy Series #13 The Pirates of the Praries, 10 The Tiger Slayer, 11 The Gold Seekers. At 60¢ each or 12 for \$6.00 Everything sent post paid. Better send second choice in case some are gone.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

BOUND VOLUMES

Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War, \$15.00 Manchester Weekly Times 1892 (English) \$5.00.

Same—Supplements 1890-1892, \$12.50.

Illustrated News 1893 full year (2 vols.) \$20.00

Same-Half year 1892, \$10.00

Gleason's Literary Companion. 1862 (52 nos.) \$12.50

Same-1863, \$12.50

Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion, Vol. 1 #1 to 35 (1851) \$10.00 Ballou's Pictorial. Volume 10 and 11, (1856) \$10.00

Same-Vol. 14, 1858, \$5.00

Waverly Magazine (Dow) Volume 4 and 5 (1852), Contains Dickens' Bleak House. \$12.50

Same-Vol. 22, 1861, \$5.00

Same-Vol. 25, 1862, \$5.00

Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion, Volume 2 only, \$7.00

Ladies Home Journal 1890-1891 (23 nos.) \$5.00

Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper Vol. 1 and 2, 1856, \$15.00

Same-1857, \$15.00

Same-1864 (Only 30 numbers bound in) \$5.00

Same-1865 (30 numbers) \$5.00

Same-1866 (24 numbers) \$4.50

Same—1867 (39 numbers) \$6.50

Same-1868 \$15.00

Same-1869 With one supplement missing \$10.00

Same-1860 (2 supplements and 2 issues missing) \$10.00

Same-1870, \$10.00

Same-1871 (one issue missing) \$12.50

Same—1871/1872. Contains "John Jasper's Secret", the solution to Dickens' Edwin Drood, complete. \$20.00

Same—1873/1874, 76 numbers (3 supplements missing) \$17.00

Harper's Weekly, Volume 5 to Volume 13 (Jan. 1861 to Dec. 1869) \$150.00 cpl. Lippincott's, Volume 1 and 2 (1868) \$5.00

Same-Volume 8, \$3.00. Volume 16, \$3.00. Volume 44, \$3.00

Following are English Publications:

Once a Week Volume 7, 8, 9. Each, \$3.50

Twice-a-Week Volume 1 (47 numbers), changed to Once-a-Week, Volume 1 (17 numbers). Total, 64 numbers, \$10.00

Wedding Bells (Brett) Volume 1 and 2 (39 nos.) \$6.00

Bow Bells (Dicks) Volume 1 (1865) 26 numbers, \$5.00

Same-Volume 2 and 14, Each \$4.00

Same-Loose lot, not bound, #766 to 778, \$2.00

Bow Bells Novelettes (Dicks) 65 numbers—each complete story—\$10.50 for this bound volume.

(Postpaid)

Ralph P. Smith

Lawrence, Mass.